

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Holmes W. Anderson on 11/04/09.

3. Claims 1, 14, and 18-19 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a client device for inclusion in a wireless network including the steps of:

responsive to a user action at the client device and at one other device in the wireless network, determining a distance between the client device and the at least one other device in the wireless network, including transmitting a signal to the client device at less than full power and determining whether the client device responds to that signal; and

authenticating the client device if the distance is within a preselected range that is less than maximum communication range of the network;

wherein determining the distance between the client device and the at least one other device includes the steps of waiting for a received a signal from the at least one other device; and

wherein the client device is not authenticated if more than one signal is received during the step of waiting including the step of measuring a strength of the signal received from the at least one other device and associating the strength of the signal with a measured distance and determining whether the measured distance is within the predetermined range of distances.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for authenticating a client device in a wireless network including at least one other device:

means for detecting a user action at the client device;

means for receiving, at the client device, a signal transmitted from the at least one other device in response to the user action;

means for determining a distance between the client device and the at least one other device, including transmitting a signal to the client device at less than full power and determining whether the client device responds to that signal; and

means for authenticating the client device and the at least one other device if the distance is within a preselected range that is less than maximum communication range of the network;

wherein means for determining the distance between the client device and the at least one other device includes the steps of waiting for a received a signal from the at least one other device; and

wherein the client device is not authenticated if more than one signal is received during the step of waiting including the step of measuring a strength of the signal received from the at least one other device and associating the strength of the signal with a measured distance and determining whether the measured distance is within the predetermined range of distances.

17. (Currently Amended) A wireless device for use in a wireless network, comprising:

a memory for storing a table of identities of member devices of the wireless network, wherein the identity of each member device is only stored in the table after the member device is authenticated, and wherein each member device is only authenticated if its physical proximity to another member of the wireless network is within a preselected range that is less than maximum communication range of the network during authentication of the respective member ;

wherein determining the distance between the client device and the at least one other device in the wireless network, including transmitting a signal to the client device at less than full power and determining whether the client device responds to the signal, waiting for a received a signal from the at least one other device; and

wherein the client device is not authenticated if more than one signal is received during the step of waiting including the step of measuring a strength of the signal

received from the at least one other device and associating the strength of the signal with a measured distance and determining whether the measured distance is within the predetermined range of distances.

18. (Currently Amended) In a computer having a memory for storing computer readable program code thereon, a computer program for authenticating a client device for inclusion in a wireless network, the computer program when executed on the computer including the steps of:

~~program code~~ operating responsive to a user action at the client device and at one other device in the wireless network, for determining a distance between the client device and the at least one other device in the wireless network, including transmitting a signal to the client device at less than full power and determining whether the client device responds to the signal; and

~~program code for~~ authenticating the client device if the distance is within a preselected range that is less than maximum communication range of the;

wherein determining the distance between the client device and the at least one other device includes the steps of waiting for a received a signal from the at least one other device; and

wherein the client device is not authenticated if more than one signal is received during the step of waiting including the step of measuring a strength of the signal received from the at least one other device and associating the strength of the signal

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with a measured distance and determining whether the measured distance is within the predetermined range of distances.

4. Claim 8-11 are canceled.

/Quynh H Nguyen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614